THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, November 5, 1804.

Memoirs of M. Charles Emanuel Talleyrand de Peregord.

TALLEYRAND deſcends from the ancient ſovereigns of the province of Peregord, in the ſouth of France. His father, a younger brother, with a ſmall fortune, deſtined his ſon, early in life, for the church; before twenty, he poſſeſſed ſeveral rich abbeys, and before thirty was made biſhop of Autun, much againſt the inclination of the virtuous Louis XVI. who had heard that the abbé de Peregord was one of the moſt immoral, but inſinuating *roues* and libertines in France.

When at college, Talleyrand ſhewed an early genius for intrigue, and a ſtrong propenſity to vice; but, for the defect of being lame, he would, after the wiſh of his governors, have diſgraced the army, inſtead of ſcandalizing the church; becauſe he always was as great a coward in his private quarrels, as daring when ſupported in his public plots; all his tranſactions, ſince a miniſter, ſhow an ungenerous coward when backed by power.

The revolution found him a gameſter, a debauchee, and a bankrupt, without honour, principles, or probity. He openly intrigued with a married lady; and her ſon, by this catholic biſhop, was lately an aid-de-camp to Louis Bonaparte.

In 1789, when a member of the national aſſembly, the gown of the biſhop did not long conceal the modern philoſopher and the faſhionable atheiſt; he was one of the firſt traitors to his king, and the firſt apoſtate to his religion; he ſoon alike attacked the majeſty of Heaven, and the majeſty of the throne.

The 2d of November, 1789, upon the motion of Talleyrand, the confiſcation of the church property in France was decreed; and ſuch is the incomprehenſible will of providence, that after years of war, murders, and crimes, this ſame man has been lately the diſpoſer of all the church property both in Germany and in Italy. The motion to diſpoſe of the property of others, by a perſon who had no property but debts, may be conſidered as the cruel foundation, in France, of all the conſequent confiſcations and plunders, as well as the proſcriptions of owners of eſtates, lands, or of money. It has cauſed the ruin and wretchedneſs of millions, but it has enriched Talleyrand and his accomplices.

In May, 1790, he was one of the members of the diplomatic committee, headed by Mirabeau, after whoſe report it was decreed by the national aſſembly, and ſanctioned by the king, that France renounced for ever all conqueſts. Since he has become a revolutionary miniſter, he has never concluded a treaty, or entered into any negociations, without aggrandizing the territory, and augmenting the power of France.

In the ſame year, when a member of the eccleſiaſtical committee, he planned the intolerant and impolitic decree, which made a diſtinction between a conſtitutional and a non-juring clergy, which has cauſed ſo many torments, diſſentions, and civil wars, and which ſtill continues to divide the Gallican church.

Talleyrand was always the worthy friend of Mirabeau, who in April, 1791, reſigned his guilty ſoul in the arms of this his guilty accomplice.

In June, 1791, he was in the ſecrets of La Fayette to betray his king into that improvident ſtate (the journey to Varennes) which produced ſo many inſults, humiliations, ſuſpicions, and accuſations; and which was the principal cauſe of all the ſubſequent ſufferings of the king and his family.

In the autumn of 1791, Talleyrand accompanied the French miniſter, Chauvelin, to England. After the late conſtitution, he could not, for ſome years, occupy any public employment; but Chauvelin was only the nominal, and Talleyrand, the real, miniſter, and the inventor, author, promoter, and inſtigator of all the plots, intrigues, and conſpiracies, in and againſt England, in 1792.

In 1793, Robeſpierre's faction cauſed a decree of outlawry to paſs againſt Talleyrand: proſcribed every where elſe, he enjoyed hoſpitality and protection in England; but, in return, meditated new plots, and invented new projects to embroil or ruin this country, which was the cauſe of the order he received from government to leave it.

In 1794, he went to America, becauſe no ſtate in Europe would receive him. In 1794, the national convention annulled

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its decree of outlaw, and in 1796, he arrived at Hamburgh, where he reſided ſome time before he returned to France: gratitude was never amongſt the virtues of this man. Hamburgh, for its hoſpitality, has ſince, by his orders, been ſeveral times laid under contributions, and he deteſts alike America and England; and their ruin is his inceſſant and daily contrivance and ſtudy.

By his intrigues with his old accomplices, the directors, Barras, Rewbel, and La Reveillere, he was, in 1797, promoted to the miniſtry of the foreign department in France. His negociations that year, and in 1798, at Raſtadt, prove his abilities to intrigue, to embroil, to divide, and to profit by his nefarious deeds.

To tranquillize the jealouſy of the directory, and at the ſame time to employ and gratify the ambition of Bonaparte, he brought forward, in the autumn of 1797, the old ſcheme of former French miniſters, the conqueſt of Egypt; and his emiſſaries prepared the treaſon that delivered up Malta to Bonaparte, in 1798.

After the victory of Lord Nelſon, at Aboukir, Talleyrand became unpopular; and, the iſſue, in 1799, of the congreſs at Raſtadt, and the unſucceſsful campaign which followed, augmented the hatred of the jacobin faction againſt him, and he was obliged to reſign: ſuch was, however, as yet, his influence with the directory, that he choſe for his ſucceſſor, Rheinhard, a perſon whom he governed as much in 1799, as he had done Chauvelin in 1792, to whom this Rheinhard was then ſecretary.

Talleyrand and Sieyes were thoſe who perſuaded Bonaparte to deſert his army in Egypt, and who prepared the revolution which ſeated him upon the throne of the Bourbons. No ſooner was the Corſican proclaimed the firſt conſul, than he reinſtated Talleyrand in his former place as miniſter.

In the beginning of 1800, by promiſes, bribes, and negociations, Talleyrand pacified the royaliſts of La Vendée, and afterwards, by treachery, delivered them up to arreſt, tranſportation, and death.

The treaties of Luneville, of Amiens, and of Ratiſbon, Talleyrand calls his political chef-d'œuvres, or maſter-pieces; time will ſoon diſcover if theſe two treaties will not follow the fate of the third, already made impracticable by French encroachments, intrigues, pretenſions, and inſolence.

When a biſhop, Talleyrand was a jobber: ſince he poſſeſſes the key to all the political tranſactions which ſo much influence the finances of all countries, his ſpeculations in different funds have procured him a fortune greater than he dares to acknowledge, or Bonaparte, ſuſpects. This fortune has been conſiderably augmented by his many negociations, in particular thoſe

about the throne in Tuſcany, the indemnities in Germany, and Louiſiana in America.

Becauſe the former kings of France, Louis XIII. Louis XIV. and Louis XV. made their miniſters, Richelieu, Mazarine, and Fleury, cardinals, Bonaparte propoſed to Talleyrand laſt year, to procure him the ſame dignity. Talleyrand had, hower, given his promiſe to marry his former miſtreſs, the divorced wife of a Mr. Grand; when, therefore, this propoſal was made, he cunningly anſwered, that thoſe cardinals were prime miniſters, that the great Henry IV. had no cardinal for a miniſter, but a friend in his miniſter Sully. The ſame day he obtained the conſular permiſſion to marry Madame Grand.

From debauchery, intemperance, and gluttony, Talleyrand's conſtitution is entirely broken, and his health deſtroyed; and the invalid ſuffers daily for the exceſſes and the vices of which he has been guilty.

Talleyrand's inveteracy againſt England is proverbial; but it does not originate from the love of his own country, but from envy to the proſperity of England. He would willingly ſign the ruin of France, was he certain that of England ſhould follow.

Talleyrand has talents; but the revolution, fortune, and circumſtances, have procured him opportunities to exhibit them to the greateſt advantage; under a regular government he would have been but an indifferent miniſter; under a revolutionary tyranny he is a great ſtateſman and a political oracle; and thoſe very vices which would have injured him under the one, are the principal cauſe of his great ſucceſs under the other. But an impartial poſterity, without our paſſions and our intereſt, will place him in his true rank, in that of a traitor, a rebel, and an apoſtate.

A Geographical, Hiſtorical, and Political View of the Iſland of St. Domingo.

(Concluded from Page 347.)

THE treaty of Amiens allowed the French to prepare a vaſt armament of near 20,000 men in the port of Breſt; and the Britiſh miniſters, upon the aſſurance of its deſtination, did not oppoſe its ſailing under Admiral Villaret. The flower of the French army was conveyed in this ſquadron, and no doubt was entertained of its reducing St. Domingo and Guadaloupe to obedience to the mother country. But in this inſtance the happy genius of the conqueror of Italy forſook him. If the ſans-culottes of France, through their numbers, could foil the ſteady, the well-diſciplined German, the bare-footed negroes of

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St. Domingo, in like manner, could weary out the veteran of Lodi and Marengo. It was as dangerous as it was uſeleſs to follow them in their flight over mountains and rocks; up precipices, which a ſoldier with ſhoes and ſtockings on his feet was utterly unable to aſcend.

To be brief in this part of our narration, which is leſs intereſting to a Britiſh reader: the formidable army ſent out under the orders of Generals Leclerc (the brother-in-law of Bonaparte), Rochambeau, and Boudet, after the greateſt exertions of ſkill and courage, rapidly melted away, more by the effect of the ſcorching climate than by the fire of the enemy. The French commander had hopes, at firſt, of not meeting with any reſiſtance from Touſſaint; and in this view he dwelt on the unbounded proofs of the kindneſs of his government. It was the news he received from Guadaloupe of the inſurrection which had there taken place that ſhewed what he had to expect from the black chief of St. Domingo; for it was now impoſſible the maſk could be longer worn.

The firſt conſul had inſtructed his general to endeavour to win Touſſaint back to his duty by benefactions, and eſpecially by one more touching to the heart of a man of feeling than any other: that was, by giving him up his ſons, which were on board of the ſame ſhip with the commander in chief, who might have retained them as hoſtages for the father's fidelity.

They had been a great while ſeparated from their parent, and had been educated with much care in the midſt of a nation whoſe allegiance he was now about to renounce. Conciliation was tried, and found uſeleſs, and the generals reſolved to ſet about chaſtiſing "the rebel," as they ſaid, "on whom clemency was thrown away."

Before hoſtilities actually commenced, and while two cutters, by the admiral's orders, were reconnoitring, at the entrance of the road of the Cape, the ſtate of the fortifications, and learning whether the buoys were taken up, a mulatto named Sangos, who held the office of port captain at the Cape, went on board the admiral, and in the name of the negro general, Chriſtophe, demanded that the French general ſhould peaceably wait the return of a courier diſpatched to Touſſaint; declaring that, upon a refuſal, and that the ſquadron ſhould attempt to enter the port, all the white people in Cape Francois ſhould be maſſacred, and the town ſet on fire! Leclerc wrote to Chriſtophe, diſplaying the benign diſpoſition of the firſt conſul; but it would not avail: Lebrun, who carried his letter, returned with an anſwer in ſimilar terms to the meſſage of Sangos.

A deputation from the town even arrived on board the fleet, to conjure the French general to take into conſideration the diſtreſſed circumſtances of the inhabitants. The mayor, who was on this occaſion accompanied by the commandant of the national

national guard, the rector, and three principal citizens, received orders from the commander in chief to go back, and read to his fellow-citizens, the firſt conſul's proclamation, and thereby unmaſk the concealed deſign of their leader.

The mayor was himſelf a negro, named Cæſar Telemaque, and, as he had always manifeſted an attachment to the mother country, his influence upon this occaſion had not its deſired effect; he was, indeed, ſuſpected. The French generals could not reconcile it to themſelves to enter the port under the dreadful menace which they had no doubt would be put in execution: and yet they were ſolicitous to avoid teſtifying any fear. Leclerc therefore reſolved on a middle courſe, which was, to land his troops at Le Limbe, and thereby to gain the heights of the Cape, before the negroes could execute the cruel threat. He conceived, that, if unable by this ſtep to ſave the city, he might at leaſt preſerve the neighbouring eſtates.

In the landing of each diviſion, the negroes oppoſed them, crying, " No Frenchmen! No white men!" The negroes defended themſelves with extreme obſtinacy by the firelock, and made good uſe of their cannon-ſhot at the fort before the town. But a Captain Major, with his grenadiers, entered it, and found it well furniſhed with artillery and ammunition in excellent condition. The commandant had not time to fulfil the written orders of General Chriſtophe, which were found in the fort: they were, " to defend himſelf againſt the French to the laſt extremity; if poſſible, to ſink their veſſels; and, if he could not maintain his poſition, to ſet fire to every thing in his retreat."

Admiral Villaret, perceiving by ſignals that a deſcent had proved ſucceſsful, ordered two of his largeſt ſhips to preſent themſelves at the entrance of the port, to draw upon them the attention of the enemy. No ſooner, however, had they got within ſhot of Fort Piccolet, than all the forts opened upon them a ſhower of bombs and cannon-ſhot. At this moment the dreadful threat of the negroes was put in execution; and the city was ſeen by the ſquadron to be in a blaze.

The fight was rendered more ſhocking by the approach of night; and thereby the French were diſabled from rendering the white inhabitants of the town any ſuccour. The victims of this deed did eſcape with life, by the addreſs of Telemache, the mayor; but their property was almoſt univerſally conſumed.

General Humbert, ſo well known to the Iriſh, was on board the Revolution man of war, and commanded ſeveral detachments. Theſe, with him at their head, performed wonders; but it would be unintereſting to the Britiſh reader to purſue this devaſtating warfare between French forces and French colonies; ſuffice it to ſay, that, after numerous bloody conflicts, where, upon the blacks giving way, they were ſlain like wild beaſts, the French

commander ſaw himſelf ſtill as far as ever from obtaining the object of his miſſion.

The black commanders did all they could to avoid pitched battles in the open plains. They knew, Fabius-like, that it was their beſt policy to wear out the adverſary by marches and counter-marches, and leave the climate to ſuperſede the power of the ſword. Touſſaint, but eſpecially his ſucceſſor Deſſalines, might, with almoſt as much juſtice as the Roman general, be diſtinguiſhed by the ſurname of Cunctator.

The French generaliſſimo ſaw that the prudence and reflection in the conduct of his adverſary muſt prove fatal to the troops he had brought from Europe; he therefore reſolved to change his own meaſures. He employed intrigue to buy off ſome of the officers of Touſſaint's ſtaff. His ſucceeding in this object with three of them created a diſtruſt in the reſt; and now Touſſaint began to fear he ſhould be betrayed by thoſe to whom he had the moſt freely unboſomed his ſecrets. At this juncture, Leclerc and Rochambeau plyed their arts, for which the French are always well qualified, and, by a profuſion of alluring promiſes on the one hand, and ſtratagems of intimidation played off by the other, they obtained the perſon of the enemy they ſo much dreaded.

This event, however it might flatter the contrivers, did not anſwer the ſanguine expectations it had given birth to. As when one pretender to a throne dies another takes his place, ſo, when the commander in chief of an army is cut off, another is ever ready to take his poſt. In this inſtance, a man of a more daring and determined ſoul than Touſſaint ſtepped forward. "My predeceſſor," ſaid he, "diſtinguiſhed his friends and enemies by principle only, and, therefore, was often miſtaken in the former, and is at laſt deceived and undone by the latter: mine ſhall be marked by a leſs erroneous diſcrimination,—by colour!

How far he has acted up to this barbarous maxim, the journals and newſpapers from time to time have informed us. Ink is not black enough to paint the mournful ſufferings of thoſe who had not the means of eſcaping from this vaſt Golgotha.

To quit a campaign, therefore, which no eye but that of a vulture or other bird of prey can follow without diſguſt and abhorrence, be it remembered, that out of from eighteen to twenty thouſand of the fineſt troops in Europe, not above four thouſand effective men quitted St. Domingo. Nor was that reſolution to withdraw formed till the ſurviving French general was convinced from experience of the inutility of endeavouring to recover St. Domingo from its uſurpers by force of arms. With the major part of theſe troops as a reinforcement, they quelled the rebellion in Guadaloupe, and have hitherto ſaved that iſland

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from a ſimilar waſte and outrage, and prevented the Britiſh from extending their triumphs in this part of the world.

Such have been the changes, diſtractions and calamities, this beautiful garden of the Weſt Indies, the paradiſe of the world, has undergone. What neceſſaries and comforts of life is it not capable of yielding! What luxuries might it not afford under a peaceable government and an encouraged agriculture! Bryan Edwards (than whom no man can be deemed a better judge) affirms, that a few diſtricts of the part of the iſland, heretofore called Hiſpaniola, might be made to produce more ſugar than all the Weſt Indies put together!! The perverſity of the human mind has averted the good which nature is wont to beſtow on all her creatures.

What will be the ultimate fate of this once princely colony it is impoſſible to ſay. For ſome years it has been converted into a theatre on which the moſt bloody acts have been exhibited. Let us profit by the different ſcenes we have been ſpectators of. The enſlaved Africans ſeem to be avenging the wrongs of the aborigines. The diſpenſations of providence are concealed from our eyes. Retributive juſtice is often ſlow. The Engliſh character is not free from blame in the conduct of one of its greateſt admirals towards St. Domingo.

Sir Francis Drake attacked it the 1ſt January, 1586, when it had obtained the ſummit of its proſperity, and the narrative of his proceeding, as related by an eye-witneſs, and given in Hakluyt's collection, ſhocks us with the following account: Drake, after a month's poſſeſſion of the city, thought the laws of war juſtified his deſtruction of it by fire. The hiſtorian of the expedition ſays, "We ſpent the early part of the mornings in firing the outmoſt houſes; but they being built magnificently of ſtone, with high loftes, gave us no ſmall travell to ruin them. And, albeit, for divers days together, we ordained each morning by day-break, until the heat began at nine of the clock, that two hundred mariners did nought elſe but labour to fire and burn the ſaid houſes, whilſt the ſoldiers, in a like proportion, ſtood forth for their guard; yet we did not, or could not, in this time, conſume ſo much as one third part of the town; and ſo in the end, wearied with firing, we were contented to accept of five and twenty thouſand ducats, of five ſhillings and ſix-pence the piece, for the ranſome of the reſt of the town."

Many, who pretend to be patriots, are deſirous of throwing a veil over all the faults or crimes of their own government, and are offended with thoſe who mention them. It is, however, the duty of the hiſtorian to conceal nothing from the reader which concerns the honour of his country, or which may enable him to aſſign a cauſe for a diſappointment in which its intereſt is involved.

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From our knowledge of the diſlike the Spaniards have to the French, our commanders expected a greater ſupport from their co-operation with us. They appear, however, to have had a greater jealouſy of the Engliſh, probably from the traditionary recollection of the above cruel treatment of their capital by one of our circumnavigators. The conflagration of the little beautiful town of Eſopus by one of our raſh generals was ſuppoſed to do us more injury in our conteſt with the American colonies, than any act of parliament calling the people rebels.

The Spaniards, both private men and officers, appear to have ſeconded the inſurgents as well againſt the Engliſh as the French, by ſupplying them with ammunition, and delivering into their hands the wretched fugitives who fled to them for protection. Let us, therefore, grow wiſe by the misfortunes of others, as well as by our own. We ſhould act juſtly, though our enemies do wrong. Lord Coke ſays, "A rule of conduct is written by the finger of God on the heart of man." The worſt of all ſins, therefore, are thoſe againſt conviction.

The preſent independence of the colony of St. Domingo has been effected by the war between England and France. The new republicans (if ſo they may be called) have therefore no obligations to either country for the accompliſhment of their deſires. If a peace were to take place between theſe rival governments (the proſpect of which, alas! is very diſtant), St. Domingo would again become an object of new deſires. At preſent it muſt be left to itſelf, with the external aid it derives from public opinion: that, however, is no inſignificant ally. Ever ſince a ſlave-market was eſtabliſhed at Liſbon in 1539, humanity has felt itſelf outraged: nor could the purity of the Chriſtian religion be more ſullied than it was by the above inſtitution being countenanced by a bull from the pope!

The queſtion of ſlavery is not buried: it may reſt for a ſhort time, but it will be revived: in the mean while, let thoſe who are concerned reflect how they will diſpoſe of it for the honour of human nature, and for the repoſe of mankind.

There are many who make diſmal preſages for all the Weſt India colonies, from what has taken place in this: that the example of miſchief will ſpread, and no one good grow out of it; that ſlaves are never to be poliſhed by intercourſe nor improved by education; that they will remain ſordid and ſavage, and ſpurn at all attempts of improvement, mental and moral; that their averſion to labour will expoſe them to want, render them ſuſpicious of each other, and revengeful towards the reſt of mankind; that their liberty will be no better than that of the maroon negroes of Jamaica, who were once enſlaved Africans, and afterwards ſavages in the midſt of ſociety; or that they will pretend to be free, while groaning under the caprice and deſpotiſm of

their chiefs, and thus, without the benefit of ſubordination, feel all the miſeries of ſervitude.

This is, indeed, a gloomy picture.

Let us not, however, be ſo vain and ſelf-conceited as to believe that men of another colour may not, like ourſelves, derive experience and advantage from beholding the comforts of civilized life. Many among them know that good laws, and a ſubmiſſion to them, will change the nature of the moſt brutal people, and that ſocial order and peaceful induſtry always contribute to individual happineſs and general proſperity. It is to be hoped, for the glory of God, and honour of man, that ſome ſuperior minds among theſe people may have influence over the reſt to abandon the ferocious manners for a more gentle character; and, as far as they acquire a knowledge of truth and juſtice, in the ſame degree be led to the practice of morality and virtue.

CHARACTER *of the* RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT.

By DR. BISSET.

FROM the time of Cecil, except Sir Robert Walpole, none was ſo long prime miniſter of England as Mr. Pitt, and, without excepting any ſtateſman, none had to encounter ſuch arduous and trying ſituations. To direct the counſels of a great nation in difficult circumſtances, requires chiefly patriotic intention, wiſe deliberation, and energetic execution; all fortified by a magnanimity which will be deterred by no paltry or ignoble motives from beneficial purſuits, plans, and conduct. That William Pitt poſſeſſes tranſcendent talents, none of his moſt virulent opponents, who have any talents themſelves, will venture to deny; but it is on the exerciſe of his powers, and the co-operation of his moral qualities, that the miniſterial character of the ſtateſman reſts. To an underſtanding which unites extraordinary ſagacity, force, and compaſs, to comprehend the ſituation of affairs in all their bearings and circumſtances, to ſee what objects ought to be purſued, he unites that combination of invention and diſcernment which readily diſcover and eſtimate appoſite means, with an unyielding firmneſs that will act according to its own judgment and choice: his mind is in a high degree endowed with ſelf-poſſeſſion: he is neither to be impelled to ſpeak or to act in any other way than he thinks ſuitable to the occaſion; and perhaps there never was a miniſter who, in all the contentions of debate and the irritation of invective, ſo completely retained the command of his own powers and paſſions: neither the poignancy of a Sheridan, nor the ſtrength of a Fox, could move him from the ſpot on which he reſolved to ſtand. The integrity

tegrity of William Pitt the ſecond, as of William Pitt, the firſt, was unimpeached.

After ſeventeen years he retired from office with an annuity ſcarcely five thouſand pounds; an infinitely leſs proviſion than his talents might have ſecured by the exerciſe of his original profeſſion; but, to ſuch a mind, money muſt be a very ſecondary object: a paſſion much more appropriate than avarice to ſuperior minds is, ambition.

Mr. Pitt, at a very early age, ſought power, and acquired it by the fame of his perſonal qualities; how he employed it may be beſt ſeen from reſults. When he became miniſter, he found the country in a very exhauſted ſtate: he readily perceived that the extenſion of commerce, improvement of finance, and promotion of public credit, were objects of the moſt urgent and immediate concern; juſtly concluding that peace was much more favourable to trade and revenue than war, he ſet out as the votary of a pacific policy. During many years of his adminiſtration, commerce, finance, and credit were extremely flouriſhing: his ſcheme for paying off the national debt was very effectual during the continuance of peace, and diminiſhed the burdens of the war.

His principles of foreign policy were thoſe which his ableſt predeceſſors had adopted, that the interpoſition of Britain in the affairs of the continent is expedient, ſo far as it tends to preſerve the balance of power, for the ſecurity of Britain and the independence of Europe: the application of this principle to Holland was by all approved: in the caſe of the imperial confederacy, the vigour and energy of Pitt repreſſed, and in a great meaſure diſſolved, a combination that was extremely dangerous to neighbouring ſtates.

No part of his policy was more diſcriminately wiſe than his conduct in the firſt years of the French revolution; he carefully avoided not only interpoſition, but even the expreſſion of an opinion concerning the new ſyſtem and doctrines, while they did not diſturb this country. Even when they became prevalent here, while he adopted the moſt effectual precautions for preventing their pernicious operation in Britain, he carefully forbore any alluſion to their conſequences in France: he and his coadjutors obſerved the ſtricteſt neutrality between the internal parties of France and the contending powers of France and of Germany. In the war, on a fair view of the evidence on both ſides, there now remains little doubt that the French were the aggreſſors; but, on the broad queſtion of expediency, the poſſibility and prudence of avoiding a war, there ſtill exiſts a great diverſity of opinion, which muſt influence the eſtimate of the adminiſtration from that time.

On the ſuppoſition that war was unavoidable, its conduct becomes the teſt for appreciating Mr. Pitt's talents as a war miniſ-

ter; and here we muſt again refer to the reſults: where Britain acted in confederacy with other powers, ſhe and they failed in moſt of the objects which they fought: going to war to defend Holland and to prevent the aggrandizement of France, we ſuffered Holland to become a province, and France to acquire a power unprecedented in the annals of modern Europe; but where Britain fought alone, and where the counſels of her miniſters, as well as the efforts of her champions, could fully operate, ſhe was uniformly victorious; if, therefore, war was neceſſary, as far as Mr. Pitt's talents could operate it was ſucceſsful: his plans animating the ſpirit for invigorating the energy, and promoting the reſources of the country, were unqueſtionably efficient. During his belligerent adminiſtration, Britain was inſtigated to efforts which ſhe had never before exhibited. After a conteſt which reduced the other contending nations to be dependent on France, Britain alone preſerved her power and importance.

One of the moſt alarming evils with which Mr. Pitt had to contend was, inteſtine diſaffection, ariſing from the contagion of revolutionary principles: the means which were employed to repreſs ſuch agitators were, in Britain, completely ſucceſsful, and ſedition was reſtrained before it ripened into treaſon. In vigorouſly purſuing an object right within certain bounds, it is extremely difficult not to overſtep the limits. The extravagant projects of the correſponding ſocieties required vigilance and counteraction; but it appeared that both miniſters and parliament miſapprehend the caſe, in ſuppoſing ſuch machinations to be treaſon by the Engliſh law: to prohibit the daily utterance of inflammatory lectures, was certainly neceſſary in the ſtate of the popular mind; but the laws for impoſing the reſtrictions probably outwent the profeſſed purpoſe.

The watchfulneſs of government reſpecting Ireland brought to a premature exploſion the rebellion, that might have proved tremendous had it been allowed time to be fully charged: not ſatisfied with efficacious remedy to exiſting evil, Mr. Pitt extended his policy to preventives, and endeavoured by an union to identify the ſentiments as well as the intereſt of the Iriſh and Britiſh.

The union between Britain and Ireland, one of the moſt momentous meaſures of Mr. Pitt, even as to preſent effects, will, probably, in future ages be much more diſtinguiſhed, when the conſequences of Britiſh and Iriſh connection are experimentally aſcertained, as are now the conſequences of the Engliſh and Scottiſh.

Perſons who deny the neceſſity or prudence of the war may probably little value the abilities which it has called forth, and if they give credit to Mr. Pitt for genius and energy, may deny him wiſdom, and aſſert, that for the laſt eight years, his great

powers

powers were employed in remedying evils which he might have before prevented: this, however, is a mere matter of opinion, that reſolves itſelf into the original expediency of the war, combined with the opportunities of afterwards making peace. It is leſs the province of the hiſtorian to obtrude upon his readers his own judgment, than to furniſh to them facts on which to ground their's; without therefore preſuming to ſolve ſo very conteſted a queſtion, I cannot help declaring my thorough conviction, founded on an impartial and accurate view of his whole conduct, that Mr. Pitt, in adviſing the commencement of the war, and at various ſtages of its continuance, acted conſcientiouſly, and according to the beſt of his judgment; and fought the benefit of his king and country, whoſe affairs he ſo long adminiſtered.

Whether unbiaſſed poſterity ſhall regard the war of 1793 as a neceſſary or unneceſſary meaſure, peace in 1796 and in 1800 as attainable or not attainable, they muſt account Mr. Pitt, in the whole ſeries of his adminiſtration, a ſtateſman of great ability and ſtrength of mind, who rendered momentous ſervices to his country; and muſt allow, that never was the force of the Britiſh character tried by ſuch dangers or graced by more ſplendid atchievements than under the adminiſtration of William Pitt.

The Complaint of Timothy Young againſt his old Relations.

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

MUCH has been ſaid upon the peeviſhneſs of old age, but ſurely none have ſo much reaſon to complain as thoſe who are continually ſubject to its caprices. It is my hard caſe to be under the controul of an old lady, my aunt, who is always grunting with the rheumatiſm, or grumbling at the follies and extravagancies of the age—the young men look like apes, and the ladies are quite diveſted of modeſty.

I have my ears conſtantly dinned with contraſts of the faſhions of the preſent day, and thoſe of my grandfather's, which generally terminate with a ſigh and a wonder at what the world will come to! This I might bear provided I could eſcape her remarks; but I can wear nothing that pleaſes: if my coat does not flap over my knees, "it's half cut away;" if I attempt to appear before her in pantaloons or trowſers, ſhe can't bear to ſee me, I am ſo prodigiouſly frightful, and ſhe is ſure my poor dear uncle (who has been dead theſe five-and-twenty years) would have deteſted ſuch naſty looking things.

She

She aſked me the other day before a whole company, whether I had not had my head drawn through a hedge, and deſired me to comb my hair ſmooth. But what mortifies me ſtill more is, that inſtead of daſhing out where I pleaſe on a Sunday morning, I am obliged to crawl over to church with her on one arm and a large prayer-book under the other; there I muſt ſit exactly oppoſite her, leſt I ſhould be ogling the girls. If I give the moſt diſtant hint of marrying, I am told I ſhall find troubles come faſt enough, and that it is time enough to think about that this ten or twelve years (though I am now two-and-twenty), to which ſucceeds a long lecture on the trumpery huſſeys of the age, as ſhe ſtiles them, who are fit for nothing but to make men miſerable; but in caſe I ſhould be determined, I am recommended to make a prudent choice, and reminded I can pick up nothing at any time.

This is my unpleaſant condition, and I have no hopes of being delivered but by the old lady's death, which I have been longing for theſe ſix years without ſucceſs.

I am your's, &c.

TIMOTHY YOUNG.

Graveſend, March 3, 1804.

FASHIONABLE WORLD DISPLAYED.

[From a late Publication, entitled the Faſhionable World diſplayed, by Theophilus Chriſtian, Eſq.

SPEAKING of the climate of the faſhionable world, the author ſays:—The *climate* of faſhion is almoſt entirely factitious and artificial, and conſequently differs in many material reſpects from the natural temperature of thoſe reſpective places over which its juriſdiction extends. Though changes from heat to cold, and *vice verſa*, are very common among theſe people, yet heat may be ſaid to be the prevailing character of the climate. They appear to have but two ſeaſons in their year; theſe they call, in conformity to common language rather than to juſt calculation, winter and ſummer. Of ſummer little is known; for it ſeems to be a rule among this people to diſband and diſperſe at the approach of it, and not to rally and re-unite till the winter has fairly commenced; though, therefore, they exiſt ſomehow or ſomewhere during the ſummer months, they wiſh it to be conſidered that they do not exiſt under their faſhionable character. They waſh themſelves in the ſea, drink laxative waters, loſe a little money at billiards, or catch a few colds at public rooms; but all theſe things they do as individuals, wholly out of their corporate capacity as members of the community of faſhion: ſo that, in their mode of diſpoſing of the ſummer, they

invert

invert the ſtanding rule of moſt other animals; they chooſe the fair ſeaſon for their torpid ſtate, and ſhew no ſigns of life but during the winter. It is not eaſy to ſay exactly when the *winter* begins in the faſhionable world; an inhabitant of Bath would have one mode of reckoning, and an inhabitant of London another; to do juſtice to the ſubject, the commencement of winter ought to be regulated by the former of theſe places, and the cloſe of it by the latter. Suppoſing, therefore, that it begins ſome time in November, there can be no difficulty in ſettling its duration; for the 4th of June is, by a tacit, yet binding ordinance, conſidered as limit over which a faſhionable winter can never paſs.

There are many circumſtances in which the climate of faſhion ſtands peculiarly diſtinguiſhed from any other. It has already been intimated, that heat is its prevalent characteriſtic; it is, however, not a little remarkable, that this heat is at its higheſt point in the winter ſeaſon; and that the inhabitants often perſpire more freely when the ſnow is upon the ground than they do in the dog-days. The truth is, that, as was before ſaid, the climate is wholly created by artificial circumſtances, and the natural temperature of the air is completely done away; the ſort of communication which they keep up with each other requires a ſpecies of apparatus which fills their atmoſphere with an immediate degree of phlogiſton.

Beſides this, they are notoriouſly fond of aſſembling in inſufferable crowds; and travellers have aſſured us, that they have often witneſſed from ten to twelve hundred perſons ſuffocating each other within a ſpace which would ſcarcely have afforded a convenient accommodation for a dozen families. Certain it is, that no people upon earth have leſs benefit from the light of the ſun than the people of faſhion: ſo that, if it were not for torches, candles, and organ lamps, they would ſcarcely ever ſee each others faces.

On the ſubject of faſhionable morality, the writer ſays:—In obſerving thus largely upon the faſhionable world, I have furniſhed a ſufficient clue to their *moral* character; if, from ſome hints which have been thrown out in this and the preceding chapter, rigid Chriſtians ſhould be led to infer that it is no better than it ſhould be, they muſt be reminded, that people of faſhion have a ſtandard peculiar to themſelves; and that therefore what are deviations from *our* ſtandard, are very near approximations to *their's*. In fact, they have acted in this reſpect with the ſame convenient policy by which they have been guided in framing every other part of their ſyſtem. Pleaſure being the object upon which a life of faſhion terminates, it was ſagaciouſly foreſeen, that an unbending morality would be utterly incompatible with the modes, and habits, and plans, of ſuch a career; there remained, therefore, no alternative but that of frittering away the ſtrength and ſubſtance

of

of the morality of the goſpel, till it became ſufficiently tame and pliable for the ſphere of accommodation in which it was to act. The conſequence has been, that while they employ the ſame terms to denote their moral ideas, as are in uſe among Chriſtians in general, yet they limit or enlarge their ſignification as expediency requires. Thus modeſty, honeſty, humanity, and ſobriety—names, with ſtricter moraliſts, for the pureſt virtues—are ſo modified and liberaliſed, by faſhionable caſuiſts, as to be capable of an alliance with a low degree of every vice to which they ſtand oppoſed. A woman may expoſe her boſom, paint her face, aſſume a forward air, gaze without emotion, and laugh without reſtraint at the looſeſt ſcenes of theatrical licentiouſneſs, and yet be after all a *modeſt* woman.

A man may detain the money which he owes his tradeſman, and contract new debts for oſtentatious ſuperfluities, while he has neither the means nor the inclination to pay his old ones, and yet be after all a very *honeſt* fellow. A woman of faſhion may diſturb the repoſe of her family every night, abandon her children to mercenary nurſes, and keep her horſes and ſervants in the ſtreets till day break, without any impeachment of her *humanity*: ſo the gentleman of faſhion may ſwallow his two or three bottles a-day, and do all his friends the kindneſs to lay them under the table as they dine with him; yet, if conſtitution or habit ſecure him againſt the ſame ignominious effects, he claims to be conſidered a *ſober* man.

There would be no end of going over all the eccentricities of faſhionable morality. To thoſe who exact that truth which allows of no duplicity, that honour which ſcorns all baſeneſs, and that virtue which wars with every vice, I queſtion but every thing in the morals of this people would appear anomalous and extraordinary: but to thoſe who conſider how neceſſary a certain portion of wickedneſs is to ſuch a life as theſe people muſt neceſſarily lead, it will not be matter of ſurpriſe that there ſhould be ſo little genuine morality among them: the wonder will rather be—that there ſhould be any at all.

REFLECTION.

IT was beautifully ſaid by St. Pierre, "The weavil and the moth oblige the wealthy monopolizer to bring his goods to market, and by deſtroying the wardrobes of the opulent they give bread to the induſtrious. Were grain as incorruptible as gold, it would be ſoon as ſcarce; and we ought to bleſs the hand that created the inſect that obliges them to ſift, turn, and ultimately to bring the grain to public ſale."

HIBERNIAN HUMILITY.

AN Iriſh gentleman, in the military line, having been lately called out to ſettle an affair of honour, juſt as he was preparing to fire, being aſked by his ſecond, who was of the ſame country, whether he could not recollect a ſhort prayer, ſuited to the occaſion, replied very gravely, "Upon my ſhoul I don't remember any but that our chaplain ſays before dinner, which I think is very proper to be ſaid now:—*For what we are going to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful!*" upon which he bowed, and fired with the moſt unaffected *non-challance*.

FRENCH POLICE.

MR. Carr, in his publication, entitled "The Stranger in France," obſerves, "I had frequent opportunities of noticing the promptitude of the French police, under Fouche. An emigrant of reſpectability aſſured me, that when he, and a friend of his waited upon Fouche for their paſſports, to enable them to quit Paris for the ſouth of France, he ſurprized them by relating to them the names of the towns, the ſtreets, and of the people with whom they had lodged, at various times, during their emigration in England."

This affords a curious ſpeculation as to the manner in which they are enabled to obtain ſuch exact accounts.

AN ANECDOTE.

THE late Mr. Townſend, walking down Broad-ſtreet, Briſtol, during an illumination, obſerved a boy breaking every window that had not a light in it. Mr. Townſend aſked him how he dared to deſtroy people's windows in that wanton manner? "O! ſaid the urchin, its all for the good of trade—*I'm a glazier!*" "All for the good of trade is it?" exclaimed Mr. Townſend, raiſing his cane, and breaking the boy's head, "there then you young raſcal, that is for the good of *my* trade —*I'm a ſurgeon!*"

A QUESTION, *by J. Truman.*

GIVEN $x+y+z=43$

$xyz=450$

$xy+xz=468.$

Where x, y, and z, repreſent the places in the alphabet, compoſing the name of a very great naturaliſt and botaniſt.

Anſwer, by A. Kyne, Jun. of Dartmouth, to R. Mudge's Enigma, inſerted the 17th of September.

THE will-o-whiſp is but a VAPOUR,
That o'er the hills doth often caper.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; Arethus, of Redruth; W. Bickham, jun. and Inamoratus, of Aſhburton; Cornwallina, of St. Teath; W. Commins, and R. Holwell, of Exeter; Primroſe, of Taunton; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; and E. R. Bickham, of Newton Buſhel.

Anſwer, by J. Whittle, of Upway, to Palladore's Rebus, inſerted September 17.

THE town that you know to be healthy and gay,
WINCANTON your rebus will ſurely diſplay.

*** We have received the like anſwer from W. Gifford, of South Petherton; A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; Arethus, of Redruth; W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; T. Prout, of Mevagiſſey; E. Moon, of Wells; Cornwallina, of St. Teath; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; W. Commins, R. Holwell, S. Murch, and W. Strong, of Exeter; J. Callaway, of Stalbridge; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; and Recluſe, of Awliſcombe.

A CHARADE, *by G. Hann, Jun. of Stoke Abbot.*

WHEN clouds the azure ſky deform,
And ſwiftly falls the boiſt'rous ſtorm,
My firſt you may behold;
Then next a female bring to view:
The parts conjoin, in order true,
A beaſt it will unfold.

A CHARADE, *by J. Callaway, of Stalbridge.*

FAR in a wild, from buſy life retir'd,
By virtue prompted, or by zeal inſpir'd,
My firſt in ſolitude and calm repoſe
Paſſes his days, deploring others woes;
'Till with my next o'erburthen'd and oppreſs'd,
He ſinks with reſignation into reſt.
My whole is where my firſt is known to dwell:
With theſe few hints, ingenious youths, farewell!

A CHARADE, *by A. Kyne, Jun. of Dartmouth.*

AT morn, when Sol's refulgent ray,
Shoots forth, and gilds the riſing day,
My firſt aſcends with flutt'ring wings,
And as it mounts harmonious ſings.
When ſportſmen, in the bluſhing morn,
Purſue the hare with hound and horn,
My next excites the reſtiff ſteed,
And makes him fly with double ſpeed.
Minutely ſcrutinize the plain,
Where Flora doth with ſplendour reign,
My fragrant whole may there be found,
And is with vernal beauty crown'd.

POETRY.

For the Weekly Entertainer.

The 1ſt Ode of the 3d Book of Horace paraphraſed.

ODI PROFANUM VULGUS ET ARCEO, &c.

THE wicked vulgar, ſmall and great,
I ſhun with care, and firmly hate;
My ſprightly youth attend:
The truths I ſing will virtue teach,
They're what a pious prieſt may preach,
And chaſteſt ears commend.

Tho' kings are men of high renown,
And pow'r attends on every crown,
Whoe'er the ſceptre ſways;
Yet kings themſelves are ſubjects ſtill,
To God's ſupreme, almighty will,
Whoſe nod the world obeys.

In conteſt for the poſts of ſtate,
Fit only for the worthy great,
Where virtue ſhould decide;
Some boaſt their blood, and ancient name,
Some plead their wealth, and ſome their fame,
And ſome exult with pride.

But death, the ſure and equal fate,
Of the poor peaſant and the great,
Will take them in their turn;
Death, which does no diſtinction ſhew,
The aſhes of the high and low
Blends in his mighty urn.

And yet the ſhepherd's humble cot,
Where vice, and pomp, and ſtate are not,
But virtuous quiet reigns;
The ſhady bank, the ſpreading trees,
The pleaſant vale, the gentle breeze,
Sleep never theſe diſdains.

Nature attending him who tries
At what alone her wants ſupplies,
And thence his mind does form;
Regardleſs of the raging main,
Or ſtars which bring deſtructive reign,
He weathers ev'ry ſtorm.

Tho' ſure to make his vineyard fail,
Compos'd he views the clattering hail,
His hopeful proſpect loſt;
Trees bearing fruit, or yielding ſhade,
By drought or tempeſt barren made,
Or winter's hoary froſt.

Calm and content, a mind like this,
The ſureſt, eaſieſt way to bliſs,
The great not oft enjoy;
All common grandeur they diſdain,
Expence and ſtate, profuſe and vain,
Their every thought employ.

But ſplendid as they ſtill appear,
Within they feel uneaſy fear,
And ſeek relief in vain:
Various amuſements they may try.
But theſe will ne'er make terrors fly,
Nor wholly baniſh pain.

Since then not all the illuſtrious things,
Which even fate the pride of kings,
Or art can e'er invent;
Since wine, nor equipage, nor dreſs,
The reſtleſs troubled mind can bleſs,
With peace and true content.

Why ſhould I quit my ſweet retreat,
For grand ſaloons, and rooms of ſtate,
Magnificent and gay?
Why quit an equal ſteady mind,
To decent competency join'd,
To tread the guilty way?

Elegiac Lines to the Memory of Miſs Bella Packwood, of the King's Theatre, Haymarket, who died the 6th of February, 1803, aged 15.

By W. C. OULTON, *Eſq.*

WHERE thoſe ſmiles of love benign,
Thoſe which every heart enſlave?
Where that countenance divine—
Where? Alas! in Bella's grave!

Where thoſe manners which delight,
Teaching others to behave?
Where thoſe thrilling eyes ſo bright?
Clos'd alas! in Bella's grave?

Where thoſe little ſportive ways
Which to all ſuch pleaſure gave?
O! the mirth of former days
Makes us weep o'er Bella's grave!

Soon, too ſoon, this life ſhe ends—
Vain is mortal power to ſave!
Beſt of daughters, ſiſters, friends,
Lies, alas! in Bella's grave!

Ceaſe, fond mourners, wherefore ſigh?
Gracious Heaven its own will have!

And

And an angel ſoars on high,
Soars on high—from Bella's grave!

Who ſhall ſay, then, ſhe's no more—
Who thus impiouſly ſhall rave?
Is ſhe loſt? no—gone before—
Joy and peace tend Bella's grave!

LETTER *from a* GENTLEMAN *to a* LADY.

MADAM,

MOST worthy of admiration,
After much deliberation,
And ſerious meditation,
Of the great expectation,
You have in the nation,
I have a great inclination,
To become your relation,
And am making preparation
To remove my habitation,
To a more convenient ſituation;
To pay you adoration
By more frequent viſitation,
For the ſake of converſation,
By which I may obtain commiſeration,
Of this kind oblation,
Be it worth obſervation,
It will be an obligation,
Beyond all moderation:
So, Madam, your's, in every ſituation,
From generation to generation.

The ANSWER.

SIR,

I received your oration
With much conſternation,
And ſome deliberation,
At the ſeeming infatuation
That ſeiz'd your imagination,
When you expreſs ſuch veneration,
On ſo ſlender a foundation.
But after examination,
And ſome little contemplation,
Suppoſe it done for recreation,
Or elſe out of oſtentation,
To diſplay education,
By an odd enumeration,
Or rather multiplication,
Of words the ſame termination,
Tho' with great variation,
And different ſignification;
Which, without diſputation,
May deſerve commendation:
But I think imitation
Ample gratification.

ADVERSITY.

STERN power, by Heaven deſign'd,
To ſcourge the pride of human kind,
And add to ſickneſs woe;
Cruel tyrants mourn in vain,
Pierc'd by thy hard galling chain,
Pangs unpitied know.

Virtue firſt was ſent from Heaven,
To thee th' celeſtial prize was giv'n,
To form her pliant mind;
By vigour taught, and ſcrutiny ſevere,
To ſhed at others woe the tender tear,
Fearleſs—to her own reſign'd.

At ſight of thee what numbers ſhrink,
Pleaſure's draught again would drink,
In folly's noiſy ſcene;
Madden'd joy, and laughter wild,
New objects finding, ſtill beguil'd,
Among the croud are ſeen.

If thou appear, the ſycophant retires,
Paying where fortune ſmiles, devoirs,
Leaving when reverſion lours;
Fickle fortune again prove kind,
The deceiver in our walks we find,
And double flattery pours.

Wiſdom in her ſable dreſs array'd,
And modeſty, ſweet angelic maid,
Oft attend thy train;
Silent ſadneſs, with the pearly tear,
And charity, to herſelf ſevere,
In grateful form convene.

Fear-creating goddeſs, O! be kind,
Shed thy influence on my mind,
In mercy bright array'd;
Diſmiſs'd thy dread terrific train,
Haggard ſickneſs, want, and pain,
On me then thy rod be laid!

ADDRESS *to the* MOON.

CYNTHIA! empreſs of the night,
Softly wav'ring, calmly bright,
On me thy mildeſt influence ſhed,
And let thy lovely beams play gently
round my head.

Thy beams oft tempt me out to roam
Around my dear, my native home;
And while I wander thro' the mead,
My footſteps ſlow thy rays in pleaſing
ſilence lead.

The pearly dew-drops glittering bright
Strike my all enrapture'd ſight,
While the far off ſounds I hear,
Play gently on, and ſooth my all attentive ear.

EPIGRAM.

SYLLA declares the world ſhall know,
That he's my moſt determin'd foe;
I only dread, to ſerve ſome end,
Sylla will ſwear he is my friend.